

(received via e-mail)

**From:** Rose Lernberg  
**To:** <smcconnell@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 3/3/2009 1:11 AM  
**Subject:** Support for the Rubicon Trail Cleanup and Abatement Order

I support the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order that you issued on January 23, 2009 to the El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

Unchecked off-road vehicle use is degrading water quality in the Rubicon Trail area, thus threatening both human and environmental health, and destroying rare riparian habitat. This order would be a positive step in addressing off-road vehicle use damage in this area.

National forest lands surrounding the Rubicon are being irreparably damaged by off-road vehicle users who do not stay on the trail. Please stop increased erosion, soil compaction, and damage to plants and animals.

Please also close the Rubicon Trail until a full environmental review can be conducted and measures are taken to minimize impacts from any future off-road vehicle use of the trail that you allow. Wet season use of these fragile areas is particularly damaging.

Off-road groups protest that a formal order is not necessary because they can police themselves. Efforts by volunteers to pick up their own trash are well-intentioned, but they cannot solve problems caused by inappropriate use. To date, self-policing efforts have been mostly ineffective in preventing environmental damage and illegal behavior.

I thank the Board and your staff for your excellent assessment of the impacts of off-road vehicle use on the Rubicon. Please adopt the draft Cleanup and Abatement Order.

Rose Lernberg